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FOOD

INFORMATION CALENDAR

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PRESIDENT TRUMAN on August 18 issued Executive Order 9599 "Providing for assistance to expanded production and continued stabilization of the national economy during the transition from war to peace, and for the orderly modification of wartime controls over prices, wages, materials and facilities. Agriculture's part in carrying out the purpose of this order is specifically set out in Part II as follows:

"During the transition to a free economy, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Federal Loan Administrator, and the Director of Economic Stabilization shall not only take all measures required by law to support prices but shall take such further measures authorized by law as may be necessary to prevent any collapse of values or discouragement of the full and effective use of productive resources."

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SUPPORTING POTATO PRICES. . . . With prices of Irish potatoes generally down to support levels, it has been necessary to buy potatoes to support the market. Between August 1 and 23, USDA purchases have totaled 1,584 cars of potatoes. These have been distributed as follows: School lunch and institutions, 438 cars; canners, 203 cars; storage, 629 cars, of which 72 cars have been moved into the Atchison, Kansas, cave; 292 cars to starch factories; 22 have been distributed to Experiment Stations for livestock feeding projects. Distributors are cooperating in a drive to get more potatoes consumed as human food. Quality potatoes at reasonable prices is the appeal. This week instructions on the 1945 Potato Loan Program will be distributed to the field. Loans will be available after September 15. Applications may be obtained from county offices of the Farm Services Branch (formerly AAA). Late potato producers will be urged to store potatoes as a means of clearing the way in the markets for the remainder of the intermediate potatoes which do not store as well as the late crop. Loans will be the principal means of price support for the late potatoes.

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COMMUNITY CANNING. . . . Indications are that community canneries are heeding the Secretary's reminder that rationing of fruits and vegetables was stopped after V-J Day on the assumption that home canners would continue to cooperate to the fullest extent. In Chino Valley, Arizona, for instance, the school board maintains a school lunch fund from rental of the school recreation hall. Valley products are bought by the board and canned for school lunches by patrons of the school, in the community cannery. The school board provides lights, fuel, and water for the cannery. Where farmers have vegetables or fruits to contribute for school lunches, children are sent from school to pick it. Another such example of teamwork is seen in the 7,000 quarts already canned for the school lunch program by the La Follette, Tenn. Community Cannery. These and other efforts of community canning centers might well be passed along as inspirational material.

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"ANTI-INFLATION SHOPPING LISTS" will be distributed to thousands of housewives from local War Price and Rationing Boards beginning next week. Housewives will be asked to show on the list actual prices paid for various foods for the period of a week. The lists will be distributed by Community Service Panels of local boards to civil associations, women's clubs, consumer groups and other organizations for the use of members. In making this announcement today Price Administrator Bowles said that prices rose twice as fast after the Armistice of the first World War as they did while the actual fighting was on. "The same set of factors that started the inflationary spiral following that war are again here," he warned in promising that price controls would be maintained as long as they are needed. (OPA Release-5858)

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4-H IN WAR AND PEACE. . . . Since Pearl Harbor, 4-H Club members have grown 1,000,000 acres of Victory Gardens; 43,000,000 chickens or other poultry; 2,700,000 head of livestock; 1,300,000 acres of food crops; and have canned 74,000,000 quarts of food. 4-H members, now 1,700,000 in number, have subbed for their brothers and sisters who went to war and helped teach youth from cities and towns how to help them on the farm. Other facts about this group are contained in a new folder entitled "4-H in War and Peace," AWI-115. Copies are available in the Office of Information.

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USDA RELEASES OF SPECIAL INTEREST. . . . Canned fruit set-aside reductions announced --1598; More canned vegetables available for civilians--1599; Distillers to get more grain--1607; Forestry experts submit plan to FAO to solve world wood problems--1613; Farm machinery order (WFO 14) revoked--1628; First conference of FAO to be held in Canada October 16--1643; S. C. Hughes to be FSA Assistant Administrator--1655.

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OTHER RELEASES OF AGRICULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE. . . . Ceiling prices for fresh apples increased--OPA-5863; Decrease in ceiling prices for fresh peaches--OPA-5837; Sweet clover seed will be exempt from price control--OPA-T-3603; Grower price for fresh prunes announced--OWI-4863; Average grower prices for figs, nectarines, and grapes announced--OWI-4876; Class 2 slaughter percentages increased--OPA-5851; American civilians arriving here from enemy prison camps to receive 100 extra red points and last valid sugar stamp--OPA 5853.

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BOB NORTH, who has been in charge of informational work on food production campaigns for the Washington Office of Information, takes over his new duties as assistant to the Executive Secretary of the International Association of Ice Cream Manufacturers, Washington, D. C., on September 4.

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CONSUMER TIME. . . . On September 8, the importance of the school lunch program and suggestions for getting programs started will be dramatized on the Consumer Time show. Industrial feeding is the subject scheduled for the September 15 show.

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J.R. SURPLUS MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL SUPPLIES. . . . Among the more than 4 million items of surplus war property that are or soon will be available, are included a virtually complete line of medical and hospital supplies and equipment. The policy of the Surplus Property Board is to make these materials available to communities at prices based on need rather than on cost to the Government. This policy will apply especially to communities that do not have health facilities of any kind at the present time.

At a meeting this week attended by representatives of the Department of Commerce, the Surplus Property Board, the Public Health Service, the Federal Security Agency, and the Department of Agriculture it was agreed, among other things, that every encouragement should be given rural communities immediately to: (1) Make surveys as to the need for better health facilities; (2) determine the kind and amount of materials needed. Since surplus war stocks include a large amount of construction materials, such as electric wiring, plumbing fixtures, cement, etc., local surveys might well take this into account if hospital or health center construction is contemplated; (3) ask their State Health Departments to help assemble evidence to justify requests for war surplus items; and (4) definitely establish who in the community will have responsibility for financial arrangements, acceptance and care of supplies or equipment obtained, and who will have proper authority to communicate with surplus property officials on pertinent problems.

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TIME TO TALK ABOUT CABBAGES. . . . Now come cabbages with a two-month marketing problem almost as important as the potato problem.

One of the largest crops of cabbage on record will be ready for market in Northern States early in September. Most of the September crop will not be storable and must be used fresh to avoid waste. The quality is particularly good because of few pests or diseases. The question of tin for packing large quantities of sauerkraut is uncertain. With some other foods scarce and housewives drawing more heavily on the supply of canned vegetables since the removal of rationing, every possible effort should be directed toward getting more cabbage on menus. Recipes and suggestions for making the most of this high-vitamin food, as well as the background story on the marketing problem, are contained in a fact sheet just released. It is being circulated widely in OS and OMS and some distribution is being made by Extension Service. Copies can be obtained from the Office of Information.

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WHEAT INSURANCE DEADLINES. . . . Farmers in the following States should be reminded of these deadlines for applying for insurance on their wheat crop: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin--September 15; Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, and Siskiyou Counties of California; and Delaware, Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, N. Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, and W. Virginia--September 29; all remaining counties of California, December 1. The deadline for Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming, is September 1.

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RECENT USDA PUBLICATIONS. . . . What are We Aiming At?--A Forest Conservation Program, AIS-10, 12 p.; Better Management on Southern Coastal Forest Ranges, AIS-17, 12 p.; Sagebrush to Grass, AIS-27, 14 p.; Soil Treatment an Aid in Termite Control, AIS-30, folder; Chemicals to Kill Weeds and Diseases in Tobacco Beds, AIS-31, 8 p.; Mineral Deficiencies in *Derris Elliptica*, P. R. Expt. Station, Bul. No. 43, 26 p.; What Peace Can Mean to American Farmers--Maintenance of Full Employment, Misc. Pub. No. 570, 28 p.; Little Leaf Disease of Pine, Circ. No. 716, 15 p.; Composition and Nutritive Value of Pork as Related to Weights of Animals and Cuts, Circ. No. 731, 22 p.; List of Intercepted Plant Pests, 1944 by ARA, June 1945, 37 p.; Propagation of Trees and Shrubs, Farmers' Bul. No. 1567, 54 p.

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GOOD NEWS FOR HOUSEWIVES. . . . Washing machines, aluminum kitchenware and ironers will soon be back on the market at 1942 prices, Price Administrator Chester Bowles has announced. They will begin to appear in stores this fall and by about the first of the year will probably be fairly plentiful. "Based on a thorough study of industry costs, we are confident that nearly all other consumer durable goods can be returned to the civilian market at pre-war prices or very close to it," Mr. Bowles says.

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CROP INSURANCE VS. OLD MAN WEATHER. . . . More than 164,000 applications covering over 199,000 farms have been received this year for cotton, wheat, flax, corn, and tobacco. Cotton was damaged by heavy rains and floods in some sections and by drought in the Western parts of Oklahoma and Texas. Losses on the other insured crops were lighter than expected but FCIC has helped minimize worry over adverse and uncertain weather conditions this year. Trial insurance programs are being considered to begin next year for citrus fruits, Irish potatoes, and peanuts.

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CHANGES IN POINT VALUES. . . . Point values for nearly all meats, all cheeses, creamery butter, and margarine will be reduced sharply and canned milk will be point free during the rationing period beginning September 2 and ending September 29 (OPA) Release 5866).

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"LA TIERRA NEUSTRA" (Our Soil) the film designed to show Puerto Rican farmers how to raise more and better food and still conserve their soil is scheduled for release to that Island in October. It is a 16 mm., Kodachrome film.

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CARE OF LAWNS IN THE FALL will be one of the topics discussed by Ernie Moore and Duke Dumars on Your Home and Garden Show, September 8, 12:30 p.m., ET, NBC.

